

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

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(j) To consult, cooperate, and exchange information with the other potato marketing committees and other individuals or agencies in connection with all proper committee activities and objectives under this subpart.

§ 946.30 Expenses and compensation.

Committee members and their respective alternates when acting on committee business shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties and in the exercise of their powers under this subpart. In addition, they may receive reasonable compensation at a rate recommended by the committee and approved by the Secretary.

[37 FR 10916, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.31 Districts.

For the purpose of determining the basis for selecting committee members, the following districts of the production area are hereby established:

(a) District No. 1—The counties of Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Whitman, and Lincoln, plus the East Irrigation District of the Columbia Basin Project, plus the area of Grant County not included in either the Quincy or South Irrigation Districts which lies east of township vertical line R27E, plus the area of Adams County not included in either of the South or Quincy Irrigation Districts.

(b) District No. 2—The counties of Kittitas, Douglas, Chelan, and Okanogan, plus the Quincy Irrigation District of the Columbia Basin Project, plus the area of Grant County not included in the East or South Irrigation Districts which lies west of township line R28E.

(c) District No. 3—The counties of Benton, Klickitat, and Yakima.

(d) District No. 4—The counties of Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, and Asotin, plus the South Irrigation District of the Columbia Basin Project, plus the area of Franklin County not included in the South District.

(e) District No. 5—All of the remaining counties in the State of Washington not included in Districts No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this section.

[70 FR 41134, July 18, 2005]

§ 946.32 Nomination.

The Secretary may select the members of the State of Washington Potato Committee and their respective alternates from nominations which may be made in the following manner, or from among such other qualified persons:

(a) Nominations for Committee members and alternate members shall be made at a meeting or meetings of producers and handlers held by the Committee or at other industry meetings or events not later than May 1 of each year; or the Committee may conduct nominations by mail not later than May 1 of each year in a manner recommended by the Committee and approved by the Secretary.

(b) At least one nominee shall be designated for each position as member and for each position as alternate member on the committee which is vacant, or which is to become vacant the following July 1;

(c) The names of nominees shall be supplied to the Secretary in such manner and form as he may prescribe, not later than June 1 of each year, or by such other date as may be specified by the Secretary;

(d) Only producers may participate in designating producer nominees, and only handlers may participate in designating handler nominees. Any person who operates in more than one district or is engaged in producing and handling potatoes, shall elect the classification (i.e., producer or handler), and the district within which he desires to participate in designating nominees;

(e) Regardless of the number of districts in which a person produces or handles potatoes, each such person is entitled to cast only one vote on behalf of himself, his agents, subsidiaries, affiliates, and representatives in designating nominees for committee members and alternates. An eligible voter's privilege of casting only one vote as aforesaid shall be construed to permit a voter to cast one vote for each position to be filled in the district in which he elects to vote; and

(f) If nominations are not made within the time and in the manner specified in this section, the Secretary may, without regard to nominations, select the committee members and alternates

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on the basis of the representation provided for in this subpart.

[37 FR 10916, June 1, 1972, as amended at 70 FR 41134, July 18, 2005]

§ 946.33 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the failure of any person selected as a committee member or as an alternate to qualify, or in the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any qualified member or alternate, a successor for his unexpired term may be selected by the Secretary from nominations made in the manner specified in § 946.32, or the Secretary may select such committee member or alternate from previously unselected nominees on the current nominee list from the district involved. If the names of nominees to fill any such vacancy are not made available to the Secretary within 30 days after such vacancy occurs, the Secretary may fill such vacancy without regard to nominations, which selection shall be made on the basis of the representation provided for in this subpart.

[17 FR 2912, Apr. 4, 1952. Redesignated at 26 FR 12751, Dec. 30, 1961, and further redesignated at 37 FR 10917, June 1, 1972]

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 946.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each fiscal period for its maintenance and functioning, and for such other purposes as the Secretary, pursuant to this subpart, determines to be appropriate. The committee shall submit to the Secretary a budget for each fiscal period, including an explanation of the items appearing therein, and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such fiscal period.

[37 FR 10917, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.41 Assessments.

Each handler shall pay to the committee upon demand, his pro rata share of the expenses authorized by the Secretary for each fiscal period. Each handler's pro rata share shall be the rate of assessment per hundredweight fixed

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by the Secretary times the quantity of potatoes which he handles as the first handler thereof. At any time during or after a fiscal period, the Secretary may increase the rate of assessment as necessary to cover authorized expenses. Such increase shall be applicable to all potatoes handled during the given fiscal period. The payment of expenses for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required during periods when no regulations are in effect. If a handler does not pay his assessment within the time prescribed by the committee, the assessment may be increased by a late payment charge or an interest charge, or both, at rates prescribed by the committee with the approval of the Secretary.

[37 FR 10917, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.42 Accounting.

(a) *Excess funds.* At the end of a fiscal period, funds in excess of the year's expenses shall be placed in an operating reserve not to exceed approximately two fiscal periods' operational expenses or such lower limits as the committee, with the approval of the Secretary, may establish. Funds in such reserve shall be available for use by the committee for expenses authorized pursuant to § 946.40. Funds in excess of those placed in the operating reserve shall be refunded to handlers. Each handler's share of such excess shall be the amount of assessments he paid in excess of his pro rata share of the actual expenses of the committee and the addition, if any, to the operating reserve.

(b) *Accounting of funds upon termination of order.* Any money collected as assessments pursuant to this subpart and remaining unexpended in the possession of the committee after termination of this part shall be distributed in such manner as the Secretary may direct: *Provided*, That to the extent practical, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

[37 FR 10917, June 1, 1972]

§ 946.43 Funds.

All funds received by the committee pursuant to any provisions of this subpart shall be used solely for the purposes specified in this subpart and shall